CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

IMPORTANCE of CANADA,

AND THE

BAY and RIVER of St. LAWRENCE, &c.

[Price Six-pence.]

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ON THE

IMPORTANCE of CANADA,

AND THE

Bay and River of St. LAWRENCE;

And of

The AMERICAN Fiſheries dependant on the Iſlands of CAPE BRETON, St. JOHN's, NEWFOUNDLAND, and the Seas adjacent.

ADDRESS'D TO

The Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT.

LONDON,

Printed for W. OWEN, near Temple-Bar, 1759.

1759
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TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

WILLIAM PITT,

SIR,

AS the preſent juſt and neceſſary War, was commenced for ſecuring our Settlements in *North America*, from the Incroachments of an ambitious Neighbour; and as under your Auſpices, it has been ſteadily conducted with that View; and

and Providence has at length crown'd the Valour of our gallant Countrymen with Succeſs; I do my ſelf the Honour to preſent you with the following Pages, in which the Worth of their Conqueſt is endeavour'd to be ſhewn.

If the Value of theſe places, had been at all underſtood, they would have been more attended to, in making the ſeveral Treaties of *Ryſwick*, *Utrecht*, and *Aix-la-Chapelle*; and in Conſequence of its not being attended to, we have been plunged into freſh wars, with endleſs Expence; which till they are attended to, will be always the Caſe; and therefore as a good Citizen, I thought

thought it my Duty, to do all in my Power, to enforce ſo neceſſary an Attention.

The Confidence your Country ſo juſtly repoſes, on your great Capacity in the Management of Public Affairs; your known Integrity, in the Conduct of them; and your unſhaken Adherence, to the true Intereſts of *Great Britain*; give Propriety to this Addreſs: And leave no Room, to doubt, that what has been hitherto wanting in every Treaty of Peace, will by your Care be ſupplied in the next; which muſt equally endear you, to every intelligent Perſon of this Age; and ſecure your Fame to lateſt Poſterity,

ſterity, who will, in this Reſpect, reap continually the Fruits of your wiſe and firm Adminiſtration.

I am,

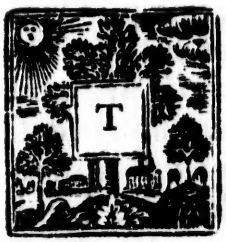
With profound Reſpect, &c.

London, October, 17, 1759.

CONSIDERATIONS

On the Importance of

CANADA, and the Bay and River of St. LAWRENCE; and of the AMERICAN Fiſheries, dependant on the Iſlands of CAPE BRETON, St. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, and the Seas adjacent.



THE Naval Power of *France* had its Riſe, and ſtill receives its main Support, from our Fiſheries in *North America*. Till the *French* were admitted into it, they did not dare to build a Ship of War without our leave: but ſince they have been introduced into it, they have become ſo very formidable, as to have contended, ſingly, againſt the two great maritime Powers of *Europe* united.

Every ſhip of *France*, in this Trade, is obliged to carry a certain Number of Landmen and Boys to train up. About the Year 1700, it was computed, and allowed on all Hands, that there were, on this Fiſhery, 800 Sail of *Engliſh* and *French* Ships; and it is pretty certain, that our Share of them was not 300: It may be even queſtioned, whether we did not fall ſhort of 250.

The *French* have a Nurſery of 50, 000 Seamen, founded upon this Trade; from whom are ſprung as many Thouſands more, who ſupply the reſt of their Navigation. There are not above 80, 000 belonging to *England*. We, indeed, have a much larger Navy; but when that is fully employed, the reſt of our Navigation muſt be greatly diſtreſſed; and we are obliged, in War time, to employ Foreigners to carry on our Trade; who, being paid high Wages, carry off Abundance of our Wealth; and all by our own Folly. But it is ſtill more ſurpriſing, that we ſhould have continued ſo long indolent; and have permitted ſo dangerous a Neighbour to grow wealthy and formidable, without our ſo much as endeavouring to deprive him of thoſe immenſe Treaſures of the Seas, which we have an original and undoubted Right to enjoy unrival'd

We have nothing left, which we can call a Fiſhery, except that we are now ſpeaking

ing of; tho' it does not employ 4000 of our Seamen. Our Right to *Canada* and *Newfoundland*, was the Foundation of Sir *Havendon Walker*'s Expedition in 1711, the Miſcarriage of which was ſo greatly lamented; it being then well underſtood, that the ſecuring the entire *American* Fiſhery, wou'd be of greater Conſequence to the *Britiſh* Empire, than the Mines of the *Weſt Indies* are to the *Spaniards*. That from this Fiſhery only, the *French* have raiſed that Naval Strength, the reducing of which has coſt us ſo much Blood and Treaſure; all armed, againſt us, with Men raiſed in our Nurſeries. The diſpoſſeſſing the *French* of this Fiſhery, muſt therefore prove the moſt fatal Blow they ever felt; ſince, from that Moment, their Navies muſt wither away, like a Tree cut off at the Root.

The taking of *Canada*; beſides employing near 40 Sail of Ships in the * *Fur*, and other

 Trades;

* For one Indian we trade with in *Hudſon*'s *Bay* (not exceeding three or 4000 in Number,) the *French* probably trade with one Hundred in *Canada*, and the Countries adjacent; who conſequently bring them a proportionable Quantity of *Furs*, beyond what the *Hudſon*'s Bay Indians furniſh our Settlements with, poſſeſs'd by the Company. The Hat Manufacture, therefore, in *France* (as at *Lyons* principally, and other places,) amounts to an immenſe Value yearly; with which the *French* ſupply *Italy*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, &c. with the vaſt Colonies of *New Spain* and the *Brazils*, poſſeſſed by theſe two laſt Nations; all which is well known to our wholeſale Hatters here. From *Canada*, they likewiſe carry on a very conſiderable contra-

band

Trades; ſupplying the Natives of that vaſt extended Country with Woollen and other *Britiſh* Manufactures; and depriving the *French* of the abundant Store of excellent * Timber which that Country affords for Ship Building; would effectually ſecure to us the *American* Fiſheries; as alſo the *Britiſh* Empire in the Continent of *America*; which can never be ſafe, whilſt *Canada* is in the Hands of *France*. As a Confirmation of this, it may not be improper to quote Part of the Romantic Grant which the *French* King made in 1712, to Monſr. *Crozat*, of a Country much larger than all *Europe*; and to which he has not the leaſt Shadow of Right, or Title.

"We, by theſe Preſents, ſign'd by our "Hand, have appointed, and do appoint the "ſaid Sieur *Crozat*, ſolely to carry on a Trade

band Trade, in all Sorts of European Commodities, to *Mexico*, with which they have a Communication by Means of the Lakes and the river *Miſſiſſipi*; which yield them, in return, Gold and great Quantities of Silver: the vaſt Advantages whereof wou'd be ſoon found by his Majeſty's Subjects, ſhould We be ſo happy as to remain in quiet Poſſeſſion of this Country; and enjoy the free Navigation of the Rivers of St. *Laurence* and *Miſſiſſipi*. They alſo carry on a conſiderable Whale Fiſhery, in two Bays, on the *Labrador* Coaſt, which is comprehended within the Charter of the *Hudſon's Bay* Company.

* Being laſt War, in the King's Yard at *Plymouth*, and viewing ſome Prize Timber from *Quebec* (purchas'd for his Majeſty's Uſe) the Officers declared, that our King had no ſuch Timber in any of his Yards. And the Scarcity of good Timber in *England*, at this Time, is but too well known.

"in

" in all the La[illegible]s poſſeſs'd by Us, and bound-
" ed by *New Mexico*, and by the Lands of
" the *Engliſh* of *Carolina*; all the Eſtabliſh-
" ments, Ports, Havens, and Rivers; and
" principally the Port and Haven of the *Iſle*
" *Dauphine*, heretofore called *Maſſacre*; the
" River of St. *Lewis*, heretofore called *Miſ-*
" *ſiſſipi*, from the Edge of the Sea as far as
" the *Ilinois*; together with the River of St.
" *Philip*, heretofore called *Ovebache*; with all
" the Countries, Territories, Lakes within
" Land; and the Rivers which fall directly or
" indirectly into that Part of the River St.
" *Lewis*."

The Extent of this Country, from North to South, is 2400 Miles; and from Weſt, Weſtward about 3500 Miles, filled with numerous Nations of *Indians:* It contains the whole North Coaſt of the Gulf of *Florida* or *Mexico*; into which, from this Country, run above twelve large Rivers, particularly the famous River *Miſſiſſipi*, many of whoſe Branches almoſt join Three of the Five great Lakes that fall into the River St. *Lawrence*; which River lies South Weſt, and North Eaſt, on the Back of all our Colonies, on the Continent of *America*. On it's Banks, and on theſe Lakes, the *French* have built ſeveral Fortifications; the deſtructive Conſequences of which, to our Colonies, we have ſeen, and felt, but too ſeverely. The *French*, united with theſe numerous Nations, (whom they convert to their

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ſuperſtitious Religion) intermarry with, and bring up in an utter Deteſtation of the *Engliſh*; would, in Time, have driven our People, on the Frontiers, into the Sea; had not a moſt auſpicious Attention, for the *Britiſh* Poſſeſſions in *America*, very providentially prevail'd, at this Juncture, in his Majeſty's Councils.

To that Part of the Continent, called by us *Nova Scotia*, and by the *French Acadia*; belongs the Iſland of *Cape Breton*, of a large Extent, and not two Leagues from the Shore. Each Side of the Channel; form'd by this Iſland *; abounds with a great Number of good Harbours, ſtrongly fortified by Nature; ſome of which the induſtrious *French* have rendered more ſo, by Art. There are alſo many Banks dependant upon this Coaſt, abounding with as great Quantities of Cod, as any Part of *Newfoundland*. Here, and at the Iſle of *Sables*, the *French* † formerly obliged the *Britiſh* Sub-

* All the Coaſt, of the Iſlands of *Cape Breton* and St. *John*'s, abounds with Cod Fiſh; as does alſo the Bay of *Fundy*, *Gaſpie* Bay at the Mouth of the River St. *Lawrence*; and likewiſe the Straits of *Belliſle*, between *Newfoundland* and *Labrador*, at which laſt Place the *French* have carried on this Fiſhery; (even during the preſent War;) cloſe to our Shores in Barks only, and cured their Fiſh on the Land; which, two or three ſmall Forts built there, would entirely have prevented, and ſecur'd to Us. We carry on this Fiſhery to much greater diſadvantage, by employing large Veſſels and going 30 Leagues to catch our Fiſh.

† In 1699 the *French* collected this Tax of ten Shillings per Head.

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jects to pay ten Shillings *per* Head, for catching their own Fiſh; which they collected by Ships of Force, ſent from *Quebec* for that Purpoſe. The *New Englanders*, and the Inhabitants of the adjacent Colonies, always looked upon theſe Places, as ſo far belonging to the Crown of *Great-Britain*; that they uſed to fetch their * Coals from the Iſle of *Cape Breton*, even in Time of War, unleſs interrupted by Privateers.

The *French*, if diſpoſſeſs'd of this Fiſhery, would be obliged to take their Mud Fiſh, or Cod ſalted wet in Bulk, from us; except his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty ſhould think proper to prohibit it, at the risk of ſtarving his own Subjects. The Produce of this Sort of Fiſh would, in ſuch Caſe, pay amply for all our ſuperfluous Imports from *France*; where there is yearly conſumed, of this Kind of Fiſh, to the amount of ſome hundred thouſand Pounds Sterling.

The great Advantage of this Fiſhery, and the Danger to be apprehended, ſhould the *French* continue in Poſſeſſion of it; toge-

* In 1758, after we had taken *Louiſbourg*, we ſent thither, from *England*, 3000 Tons of Coals for the Uſe of that Garriſon; although it was very well known here at that Time (and even in the laſt War) that they might have been ſupplied with Coals, from the Spot, for leſs than ten Shillings a Ton: a Miſtake which, it is not doubted, will be rectify'd for the future.

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ther with their other Uſurpations in *North America*, would not have been ſo much expatiated upon here; did not a fair Opportunity now offer, for us to ſecure to ourſelves this vaſt Support of our Naval Power, and of our *American* Empire.

In 1583, Queen *Elizabeth* ſent the firſt Governor, Sir *Humphrey Gilbert* to *Newfoundland*. In the Reign of King *James* the firſt, this fiſhing Trade was in a flouriſhing Condition, and entirely enjoyed by the *Engliſh* unrival'd. It continued the ſame in the Reign of *Charles* the firſt; as appears by Letters Patent, bearing date the 10th of *February* 1633, in the ninth Year of his Reign, reciting, *viz.*

" That the Region and Country called *New-*
" *foundland*, had been acquired to the domi-
" nions of his Progenitors, which he held; and
" his People had for many Years reſorted to
" thoſe Parts; where, and on the Coaſt ad-
" joining, they employed themſelves in Fiſh-
" ing; whereby a great Number of his Peo-
" ple had been ſet at Work, and Navigation
" and Mariners much increaſed, &c." And his Majeſty then ordained ſome Laws, for the better Government of the Fiſhing, Ships, and Inhabitants, &c.

In 1638, the *French* obtained Liberty, from King *Charles* the firſt, to fiſh there, and in acknowledg-

knowledgment of our Right, were to pay a Tribute of five *per Cent*; and his Majesty sent a Governor thither to collect it. At that Time, the *French* had very few Ships. But they grew weary in a few Years of paying this Tribute; upon which they went to the South Side of the Island, built two Forts, and carried on this Fishery to the Westward of *Cape Race*. In 1670, they took in two Bays more, *viz. Placentia* and *Passara*; and thereby augmented their fishing to ten times what it was before. And so rapid was the Increase of their Navigation, by this Fishery, that they, in a few Years after, had raised a Naval Power able to contend, singly, with the united Fleets of *England* and *Holland*.——But we have now just Reason to hope, from the well known Wisdom of those who at present are the Guardians of our Colonies; that the Consequences of the *French* enjoying so great a Share in this Fishery, is as well understood at this critical Juncture, as it was in the Year 1659; when the Merchants in Order to guard against so growing an Evil, deliver'd the following Remonstrance to the Government.

" We had many *English* Ships, and many " thousands of Seamen that had their constant " Employment for *Newfoundland*; and being " loaden with Fish, the most of them sailed " from thence for several Ports of *Spain*, and " its Territories; as from 50 to 60 to *Bilboa*,

" and St. *Sebaſtian*'s, 40 to *Cadiz* and St. *Lu-*
" *car*, 20 to *Malaga* and *Velez*, and from 20
" to 30 for *Valencia*, *Alicant*, and *Cartagena*;
" beſides others that went to the *Groyne*, and
" other Sea Port Towns in *Spain*; the moſt
" of the Remainder went for *Majorca* and *Mi-*
" *norca*, *Sicilia*, *Sardinia*, *Naples*; and ſpent
" in the Dukedom of *Milan*, and in victualling
" their Galleons, Galleys, &c. Hereby (well
" conſidered) we had great Advantage; for that,
" clearly, there were added to the Stock of the
" Nation, at leaſt £ 500,000 *per Annum*; and
" ſo much got out of the Sea, by the Labour
" and Induſtry of our People, and the Ship-
" ing maintained. And it was alſo a Nurſery
" for Seamen, *breeding more than all other*
" *Trades whatſoever*. They carry out not ſo
" much Beef and Bread as they would have
" eaten in *England*, the moſt of their Food
" being Fiſh: And if they had not been thus
" employed, perchance they might have lived
" idle at home; and ſo have been unprofi-
" table Members of the Commonwealth, and
" to have their Subſiſtance from other induſ-
" trious Perſons.

" Whilſt we aſſiſted the *French*, they have
" in a Manner got this whole Trade. This
" Year they had above 250 Ships at *New-*
" *foundland*; and have obtained free Permiſ-
" ſions from the King of *Spain*, to enter into
" the Ports of *Bilboa*, St. *Sebaſtian*'s and *Paſ-*
" *ſague*,

" *ſague*, with their Fiſh and Men; where " they do not only furniſh the Men of " War that take us, but the Fiſh is carried " from 3 to 400 Miles up into the Country " of *Spain*.

" St. *John de Luz*, had not formerly above " eight Ships, and this Year they have near " fifty Sail; a good Part of which were *En-* " *gliſh* Prizes, and without doubt *incovertly* " the *Spaniards* have a great Intereſt in them; " *and it will be a hard Matter now to get this* " *Trade again from the* French."

The Authors of this Remonſtrance, plainly foreſaw the bad Conſequences which would enſue, ſhould the *French* continue this Fiſhery. Nevertheleſs King *Charles* the ſecond, in 1675, (the 27th Year of his Reign) did not only confirm the *French* therein, but even remitted them the Tribute of 5 *per Cent*. They alſo obtained, from King *James* the ſecond, a Confirmation of the aforeſaid Grants. Their obtaining a Confirmation of theſe Grants, from 3 ſucceeding Kings of *England*, ſhews, that they themſelves were well acquainted with the Weakneſs ef their own Title. But in King *William*'s Declaration of War againſt the *French*, their Incroachment upon our Trade, and upon the Fiſhery of *Newfoundland*, is particularly ſet forth, as one of the Cauſes of the War; and as

even contrary to the very Statutes of these Realms, by which it is enacted, Stat. 10, 11, of King *William* the third, Cap. 25.

" That whereas, the Trade and Fishery of " *Newfoundland*, is a beneficial Trade to this " Kingdom, not only in employing great " Numbers of Seamen and Ships, and export- " ing and consuming great Quantities of Provi- " sions and Manufactures of this Realm; where- " by many Tradesmen and Artificers are kept " at Work; but also in bringing into this Na- " tion, by Returns of the Effects of the said " Fishery, from other Countries, great Quan- " tities of Wine, Oil, *Plate*, Iron, Wool, and " sundry other useful Commodities; to the " Increase of his Majesty's Revenue, and the " Encouragement of Trade and Navigation. " Be it enacted, &c. That henceforth, all his " Majesty's Subjects shall have, use, and enjoy " the free Trade and Traffick, and Art of " Merchandising and Fishing to and from " *Newfoundland*; and take Baite and Fish on " any of the Rivers, Creeks, or any of the " Islands adjoining or adjacent thereunto, as " fully and freely, as at any Time heretofore " hath been used or enjoyed by any of the " Subjects of his Majesty's Predecessors, with- " out any Hindrance, &c. of or from any Per- " son whatsoever. *And that no Alien or Stran- " ger whatsoever* (not residing *with England*) " shall at any Time hereafter take any Baite, " or use any Sort of Trade or Fishing what-

" soever

'ſoever in *Newfoundland*, or in any of the "Places or Iſlands abovementioned."

The great Increaſe of the Naval Power, and Wealth of *France*, will be obvious to every one who conſiders, that from the Year 1638, the Date of their Admittance into this Fiſhery, (at which Time they had very few Ships in any Part of the world) to the Year 1659, (only 21 Years) they increaſed their Ships in this Trade, from about 40 to about 250; and that, from this Period, to the Reign of King *James* the ſecond, (only 25 years more) they had augmented ſo vaſtly their Wealth and Naval Power, as to make all *Europe* ſtand in Awe of them: A Proof how very formidable a Prince may become, by Sea and Land, who is left, during only a few Years, in quiet Poſſeſſion of this Trade: by ſuch an annual Increaſe of Men, Ships, Bullion, &c.

The *French* by their extraordinary Frugality, joined to other great Advantages, ſuch as the Cheapneſs of Salt of their own making; the low Wages of their Mariners; the little Expence in victualling their Ships; and their having the beſt and moſt convenient Places for fiſhing; have almoſt diſpoſſeſſed the *Engliſh* of this Trade, as may be inſtanced, in many of the Out-Ports of this Kingdom, viz. *Barnſtaple*, *Biddeford*, *Dartmouth*, &c. which do not employ one fourth Part of the Ships they did formerly. The two firſt could furniſh the Royal

Royal Navy with 400 Voluntier Sailors; whereas they now find it difficult even to man the few Veſſels they fit out. But were this great fiſhery Trade to center with us, (as we have ſtrong Reaſon to hope it will) our Weſtern Navigation wou'd ſoon flouriſh; our Lands riſe in their Value; and the Manufacturers of thoſe Counties (in particular) be conſiderably enriched, by the vaſt Demand for their Merchandize of all Kinds.

To encourage ſtill more this uſurp'd Fiſhery, the French King iſſued out the following Edict, *viz.*

" An Arret of the King's Council of ſtate,
" by which Cod Fiſh caught, and Oil made,
" by his Subjects, fiſhing at *Iſle Royale*, for-
" merly called the Iſland of *Cape Breton*, are
" exempted from all Cuſtoms during ten Years.

" At *Fontainbleau* the 9th of *September* 1713.
" the King having been ever attentive to all
" Methods which might contribute to the In-
" creaſe of the Commerce of the Kingdom;
" with Reſpect as well to the Fiſheries on the
" Maritime Coaſts of *France*, as to thoſe for
" Cod-fiſh green and dried on the Sea of *Ca-*
" *nada:* And his Majeſty being deſirous to
" procure *greater Advantages*, to thoſe of his
" Subjects, who ſhall undertake the Fiſhery of
" dried *Cod-fiſh* at *Iſle Royale*, called formerly

" the

" the Iſle of *Cape Breton*; by a general Ex-
" emption of the ſaid dried *Cod-fiſh*, and the
" Oil made thereof, that ſhall be brought into
" this Kingdom, from all *Duties* of Importa-
" tion.——Accordingly, his Majeſty in Coun-
" cil *ordains*; that for ten Years, beginning
" from the firſt of *January* next, they ſhall
" be exempted accordingly."

'Tis therefore evident, that the *French* have employed all the Arts in their Power, and uſed every Endeavour poſſible, to extend their Fiſheries in the *Seas* of *Canada*, to which they ſo inſolently pretend to have a Right.

The Total, (in the Calculation of this *French American Fiſhery*) has varied at different Periods; but we may venture to ſettle it, in Time of Peace, at 900 Ships annually (each of 150 Tons, one with another) which, at 20 Quintals of Fiſh *per* Ton, makes 2,700,000 Quintals; and valuing the Quintal at 20 Shillings, the * annual gain to *France*, by this Fiſhery, will then be £ 2,700,000 Sterling. Theſe 900 Ships (as above) carrying each 18 Men, one with another, make 16,200 Seamen employed only in this Fiſhery. So that, ſhould this Calculation be thought but tolerably juſt, we need not wonder that the Naval Power of *France* ſhould have riſen to the Height, in

* Out of this annual gain, muſt be deducted the value of the Mud and dried Cod-fiſh, conſumed in *France*.

which

which we have ſeen it, during the laſt and the ſent War. Nor would it be matter of Surprize ſhould we again ſee it, after a few Years Peace, in a yet more formidable State than ever, in Caſe that Crown ſhould be ſo fortunate, as to be left in Poſſeſſion of the Iſlands of *Cape-Breton* and *St. John's*.

When we reflect, that this *American* Fiſhery is the grand Nurſery for the beſt Seamen, and that the *French* raiſe out of it, five times the Number we do; we may naturally infer, that *Great-Britain*, which claims Obedience on the Ocean, will, in a few Years, become ſubſervient to *France*, if timely care be not taken to prevent it: ——And that we have it now in our Power, to preſerve ſuch Superiority, is beyond all Diſpute.

By the 13th Article of the *Treaty* of *Utrecht*, the *French* are limited with reſpect to their Fiſhing in *Newfoundland*; which however they are well known to have always deviated from, even to this Day —— They will now ('tis to be hop'd) be totally excluded from any ſhare in this *American* Fiſhery, by our *Right* of *Conqueſt*.——And we ſhall ſhew, immediately, our inconteſtable *Title* to theſe Seas, from our *firſt Diſcovery*. In a word, the *French* have dealt ſo very treacherouſly by us, that we may juſtly lament their being poſſeſs'd of a ſingle Inch of Land, or Sea Territory, in

North

North America: And we ought to be ſo well acquainted with our own Intereſt, as not to let ſlip any more, the fair Opportunity which offers itſelf; now the Sword is impending over their Heads; without our wreſting from them, and ſecuring to ourſelves, theſe Territories and Seas, whence only they can have it in their Power to *deſtroy us*, or render us contemptible; and ſuch we ſhall unpitied be, when ever the Naval Power of *France* ſhall become ſuperior to that of *Great Britain*.

Our having taken, ſunk, or deſtroy'd, during the preſent War, a full third Part of their Navy, has certainly leſſen'd the Miſchiefs which our Commerce might otherwiſe have ſuſtain'd from them; at the ſame Time, that their Trade has been ſo much the more expoſed to Capture, by our Men of War and Privateers.----Yet, as no Country recovers ſo ſoon, from it's Wounds, as *France*; and as the Flower of her Seamen, (now Priſoners here) muſt be reſtored to her upon a Peace; ſhe then will need but to replace the Ships ſhe has loſt, either by building them at home, or by employing Foreigners for that Purpoſe, (which we well know may be done in a very few Years,) In Order for her to be as formidable a Naval Power, as ſhe was before the commencement of the preſent War. It is even very natural to ſuppoſe, that the *French* will exert their utmoſt Endeavours, to be ſtill more

powerful; They having ſeen, and felt, from our Example, that Their very Exiſtence as a Trading Nation, depends wholly upon Their having a mighty Navy. But ſhould we be ſo happy as to eſtabliſh our Poſſeſſions and Conqueſts in *North America*; (neglecting nothing which may ſecure to us the firm and laſting Alliance and Friendſhip of the Indians) it will then be impoſſible for *France* to cultivate her Fiſheries in thoſe Seas; from which Moment we may pronounce her no longer a Maritime Power. She may, indeed, poſſeſs Ships of War, but they will rot in her Harbours for want of Seamen (at leaſt good ones) to man them, and of Trade to protect. The compleating ſo glorious a Plan; which, by the Wiſdom and Fortitude of our Councils, is already brought to ſuch great forwardneſs; cannot fail of producing the moſt Signal Advantages to this Nation; by furniſhing the means of laying a very ſolid Foundation, for unburthening it of that heavy load of Debt and Taxes, under which the People have been groaning for ſo many Years.

To determine our Right to his Majeſty's Territories in North *America*, it may not be improper to conſider, by what Title any *European* Nation holds any Dominions there. *South America* was diſcover'd by *Columbus*, at the Expence of the King of *Spain*, about 250 Years ago; and he has poſſeſs'd it ever ſince, by this *Right* of *Diſcovery* only; which has been admit-

admitted, by all *European* Nations to this Day, as a firm and authentic Title; and acknowledged as ſuch by the King of *England*, when he diſavow'd (to *Spain*) the *Scotch* Expedition to *Darien*.

North America was diſcover'd by *Sebaſtian Cabot*, at the Expence of the Crown of *England*, under our *Henry* the VIIth: whence our Title, to the Whole of *North America*, is full as *firm* and *authentic*, as that of the Crown of *Spain* to *South America*, which has never been queſtioned.

Both the *Dutch* and *Engliſh* claim a Right to *Greenland*, as being the *firſt Diſcoverers*, and from their ſetting up *Marks* in that Country: Now, ſuch *Marks* did *Sebaſtian Cabot* erect, in various Parts of *North America*.——Is it not juſt, that thoſe Nations, who are at the Trouble and Expence of fitting out *Expeditions*, for making *Diſcoveries*, ſhould reap the Benefit of them? Or is it equitable that one Perſon ſhould reap the Fruits of another Man's Expence and Labour? And if it is not, why ſhould it be otherwiſe between Nations? If Diſcovery gives no Right, ſurely nothing can. If nothing but an inhabiting Poſſeſſion gives a Right, no Diſcoverer cou'd be ſure to reap the Benefit of his Expence and Labour, ſince Diſcovery muſt neceſſarily precede Inhabitancy, as for inſtance, in the preſent Caſe; Can any one ſuppoſe, that a

Ship ſent out upon a Diſcovery, cou'd have Inhabitants, on board, enough to plant Colonies? Or that *Sebaſtian Cabot* could have left Settlers behind him, to keep Poſſeſſion till his return, with a ſufficient Number of People to inhabit this wide extended Country; where a defenſible Force, (at leaſt) was requiſite, in order to withſtand ſo many numerous Nations of Indians? Elſe any Power, upon Notice of ſuch Diſcovery, might have ſent a Fleet, with Inhabitants, to take Poſſeſſion; ſuch People might have arrived before ours; and Theſe, by firſt inhabiting thoſe Countries, might lawfully have the Fruits of the Labour and Expence of the Diſcoverer. But ſurely no Man can be ſo wrong-headed or unjuſt, as to favour ſuch a Kind of Right; or pretend that the Expence, to which *Henry* the VIIth put himſelf, in theſe Diſcoveries, was merely for the ſake of *France*.

It has been urged, by *French* Advocates, that their King has an undoubted Right, not only to all he lays Claim to on the Continent of *North America*; but even to *Newfoundland* and other Iſlands: That nothing gives a Right, but *Poſſeſſion* or *Inhabitancy*:——That if the *Engliſh* remove from any one Spot of Ground, or Iſland, to inhabit any other more convenient, the *French* may immediately poſſeſs the deſerted Spot; and from that Moment, have an original, hereditary, and undoubted Right to it.——But on the contrary, ſhould they offer but to ſet

Foot

Foot in a Country, of many thouſands Miles in Circumference, where the *French* had but a *Hutt* built of *Twiggs* and *Leaves*, and ſhou'd in a new *Map*, *alter* the *old Name* into any which has a Sound of *French* in it, as *Louiſiana*, *Bourboniana*, *Orleaniana*, &c. tho' it were our own Acquiſition and Diſcovery; yet truly our Right to it, wou'd not only be un-original and unhereditary, but unlawful. ——Such Law may indeed, be current at *Verſailles*; but it is to be hoped, will never be thought binding at *Whitehall*.

We need look no further back, for Examples of their inſolent Uſurpations of this Sort, than thoſe which gave Riſe to the preſent War; to which the Pleadings of the *French* Hirelings abroad, and even at home, have not a little contributed. If Poſſeſſion gives a Right, they may inhabit many of the Scotch Iſles, ſuch as the *Hebrides*, &c. which are unpeopled. They alſo might poſſeſs Themſelves of many uninhabited Parts of *Ireland* and its dependant Iſles; which being only a Diſcovery, the *French* wou'd have the ſame Right to them, as they have to any Part of *North America*.

His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty; becauſe ſome of his Subjects have unjuſtly inhabited the Mouth of the River St. *Lawrence* and the Entrance of the *Miſſiſſipi*; (which two Rivers run through all *North America*) has founded a pre ended Right to that whole Country, on each Side their

Banks.

Banks, except the Edge of the Coaſt which the *Engliſh* inhabit. We, indeed, are much obliged to him for *excepting that*, in his romantic Grant to Monſr. *Crozat*; to whom he might as juſtly have granted the Iſland of *Great Britain*, by the Name of *Delphiniana*, or any other Appellation. His Catholic Majeſty has as good a Right to all the Dominions on both Sides of the *Mediteranean*, from his Subjects inhabiting each Side of it's Mouth, The *Hamburghers*, to all the Territories on each Side of the *Elbe*, from their being ſeated at the Entrance of that River. The *Turks*, to the Poſſeſſion of the whole *German* Empire, becauſe they are Maſters of the Mouth of the *Danube:* And the *Cham* of *Tartary* might as juſtly make a Grant of the Empire of *Ruſſia*, under the Name of *Tartariana*, from his poſſeſſing the Mouth of the *Wolga*.

The *Spaniards*, who have ever preſerved their Right to *South America* unqueſtioned, (even by the *French* themſelves) have there a Circumference of Coaſt, of above 22,000 Miles. They do not permit any *European* Nation to poſſeſs or inhabit the leaſt Spot of it. Nor does any other people ſo far queſtion their Right to it, as to make any Attempt of this Sort. There are Iſlands and Countries above 1,000 Miles diſtant from any of the *Spaniſh* Colonies or Habitations, and yet, They do not permit any Foreigners to poſſeſs or inhabit them. The

Scotch

Scotch Settlement at *Darien* is a glaring Proof of this, being more remote from any of their Inhabitants, than the *French*, in *North America*, are from ours. Shall then the *Spaniſh* Title, to ſo vaſt a Part of *America*, and to ſuch a mighty Circumference of Coaſt, be ſacred and inviolate; and that of *Great Britain* only, be queſtioned and inſulted, which has not above 1500 Leagues of Coaſt, from the North of *Hudſons Bay*, to the Southward, round Cape *Florida*, to the Confines of *Mexico*? And ſhall We, the greateſt Naval Power in the World, cloſe the preſent glorious War, without our being made perfectly ſecure, for the future, againſt ſuch unjuſtifiable and barbarous Incroachments as the *French* have made upon thoſe indiſputable Rights, which We, under the Auſpices of his Majeſty, and his Succeſſors; ought to enjoy unmoleſted?

FINIS.